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5 December 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Warning Working Group Members

Minutes of last meeting attached. Agenda for next meeting  
(Friday, 8 December, at 1315 in Room 7E62) in Paragraph 5.



Richard Lehman  
NIO/Warning

Attachment

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Warning Working Group Meeting 1 December 1978 [ ]

1. The Warning Working Group met on 1 December at Headquarters. [ ] substituted for Mr. Shackley. [ ]

2. [ ] reported that he had full agreement from the SWS study group and expected to produce a final report the week of 8 December. [ ]

4. There was some discussion of the wording of NIT II.1, with some members arguing that it was not sufficiently precise. The consensus was that any attempt to make it precise would also make it unwieldy; it would, however, suffice to establish that the general subject had a high priority. It was for the Working Group to decide what particular subtopics should be emphasized and to present these in a strategy. The Chairman agreed to review the strategy prepared some months ago and to present a proposed revision to the Working Group at a later meeting. In this connection, the subject of cover and deception was raised. It was generally felt that while the NIT gave a high priority to this that that priority was not fully reflected in the work underway in the Community. It was agreed that this was yet another subject on which the Working Group would have to sort out its role, perhaps in connection with the review of strategy against the NIT. [ ]

5. The Working Group's schedule for December was discussed. It was agreed that DIA would present a 20-minute briefing to the Group on the status of WISP on 8 December, with emphasis on the potential relationship of the Working Group to WISP. Also at that meeting it will review procedures for Alert Memoranda. There will be no further meetings until 28 or 29 December, for which the Chairman will try to schedule [ ] an extended discussion. At that meeting, the Group will attempt to resolve its views on its role in WISP, the future of SWS, and a strategy to support the NIT. [ ]

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X1 6. [ ] reported on his activities in pursuit of political warning during the Chairman's absence. This led to some discussion of the monthly NIO memoranda and the Alert Memorandum. Relative to the NIO memoranda, Admiral [ ] noted that he thought NIO/NESA's second paper went too far into the realm of possibilities. He also asked that the DDO representatives at these meetings be prepared to respond to questions about the DDO's capabilities in critical areas, with due regard to their requirement to protect sources. Mr. Oleson suggested, and it was accepted, that each NIO memorandum include a footnote describing the context of the exercise to protect us against charges of being too alarmist should the inevitable leak occur. Relative to the Alert Memorandum, Mr. Baraz asked why the memo on Iran had not been a SNIE. The Chairman replied that he thought that in retrospect a paper that ambitious should have been issued as a SNIE, but that the situation had evolved in such a way as to make this impossible. He thought that future Alert Memoranda could and should be much shorter. [ ]

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X1 7. [ ] recommended that we schedule a briefing by the NITO for Warning and Crisis Management on his program at an early meeting. [ ]

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[ ]  
Richard Lehman  
National Intelligence Officer  
for Warning

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